

PREFACE

The aim of this research is to study the Monopoly Cotton Procurement Scheme in Maharashtra, to review it for a particular span and get an insight into the working of Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Grower's Marketing Federation. An efficient & orderly procurement of cotton is inevitable for the progress of the scheme, which is ultimately responsible for the development of Agricultural economy.

In order to relieve the cotton growers from the exploitation at the hands of some unscrupulous functionaries & with a view to give the cottongrowers a fair deal & protect their interest the Maharashtra Govt. started the Monopoly Cotton Procurement Scheme. Actually, it has been a very bold decision at the risk of inviting the anger of the Central Govt., for coming in to the direct competition with the Central Government's agency, the Cotton Corporation of India.

Despite its existance for more than couple of decades, the scheme has not been able to secure for itself a permanent position.

Except for the few references that are quoted at suitable places, the entire work is based on an analysis of the scheme and its operations & by undertaking a survey of selected cottongrowers.

As the cottongrowers are expected to be the main beneficiary of the scheme, their views about the scheme are very much important in the continuation of the scheme. Therefore, in order to know their opinions about grading, weighment, payment of cotton price, & other operations, 150 cottongrowers were interviewed through vernacular questionnaire. The overall effect of the scheme on cottongrowers was findout from this survey, and whether their area under cotton cultivation has increased or otherwise since the inception of the scheme was ascertained.

The study comprises of Ten Chapters. Chapter-I deals with history of Cotton, Cotton in world, cotton in India, cotton in Maharashtra. Chapter-II deals with the Research Methodology undertaken. Chapter-III highlights the Cotton Marketing Systems prior to the Implementation of Monopoly Cotton Procurement Scheme. Chapter-IV is concerned with Introduction of State Intervention & State Participation in Cotton Trade. Chapter-V throws light on the Operative Structure of the Scheme. Chapter-

VI takes the review of Ten years working of the Monopoly Cotton Procurement Scheme. Chapter-VII deals with difficulties involved in the scheme. Chapter-VIII deals with opinions of Cottongrowers regarding the scheme. Chapter-IX emphasises on the problems & suggestions. Chapter-X covers the Summary, Conclusions & Recommendations.

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